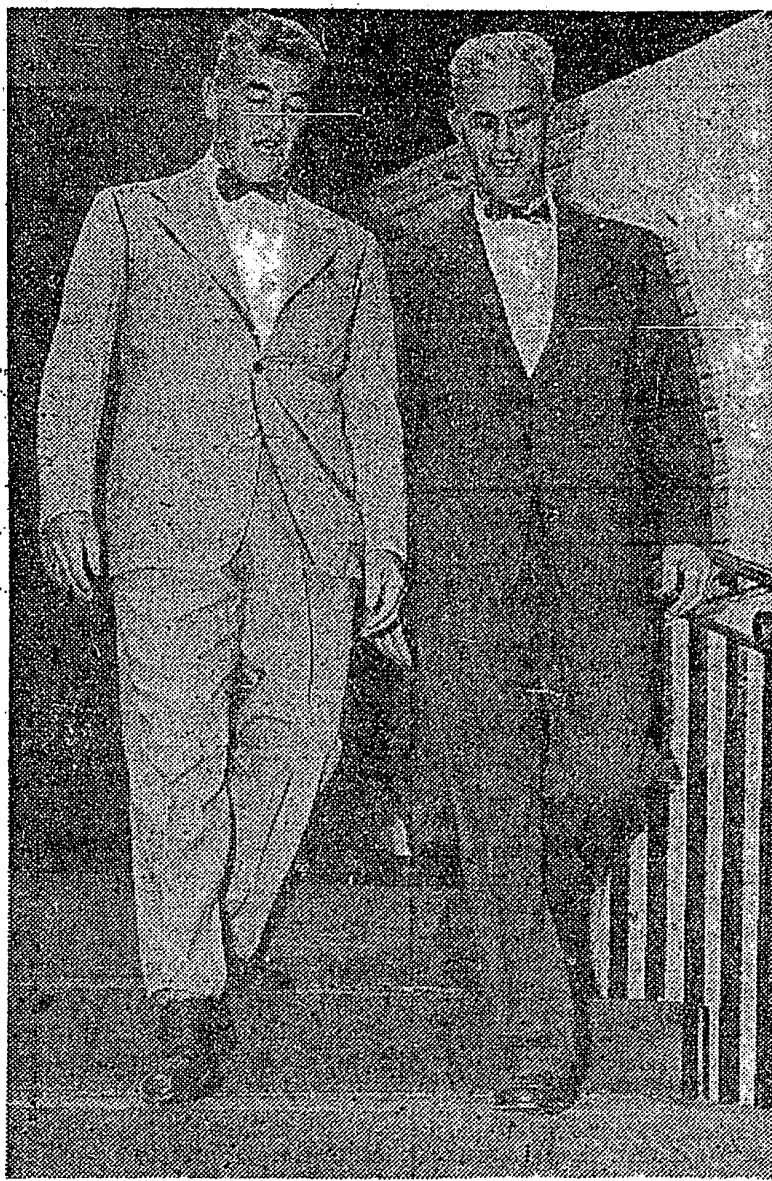


# PEOPLE *In The NEWS*



**AT OAK HILL**—Thomas (left) and Basil De Lashmutt walk from estate

## **Oak Hill Buyer, Arlington Native, Began Successful Career in 1929**

Starting in 1929 of all years, Thomas N. DeLashmutt with his brothers wrote a success story for themselves that has few parallels in Arlington County.

He picked that year to go into the construction business, under the firm name of DeLashmutt Brothers. Things worked out well enough so that yesterday he had \$22,000 to put on the line for the purchase of Oak Hill, historic Loudoun County estate once owned by President James Monroe. Completion of the sale means putting another \$198,000 on the same line in 100 days, and friends say he will have no trouble doing it.

Thomas N. DeLashmutt came to Oak Hill for the court-ordered auction sale yesterday with a younger brother, Basil M. DeLashmutt, an engineer in Arlington and member of the county board.

### **Unflustered by Bidding**

Thomas, 48, hatless, with iron gray hair, deep tan, and the build of a football player, attracted no special attention in the crowd of 300 persons, until he put in the second bid for the classic, pillared mansion, and the 1725 acres of rolling Loudoun County farmland that go with the house.

Then he stood quietly, unflustered, sometimes talking with his brother, during the hour that the bidding went on. He offered the top price, \$220,000, over competition of but two other bidders.

He said simply that he wants it for a home for himself, his wife, the former Miss Eugene Reed of Richmond, Va., and their three children, Janice, 12; Thomas, 7, and Melinda, 4.

He explained his wife likes old houses, and he likes farming. Moving to Oak Hill would mean that they would have a house about the same age and same size as the one they have now, and a farm three times the size. Their present home and farm are near Haymarket, Va. He has operated the place for 10 years successfully as a stock farm, and his intention is to devote Oak Hill to the same purpose. He also wants to make the place livable, without major alterations in the historic mansions.

### **Native of Arlington**

DeLashmutt is a native of Arlington, son of T. J. DeLashmutt, now retired after a long career in the insurance business in Arlington.

Thomas worked his way through three years of a civil engineering course at the University of Virginia. Fellow students recall him as being rather uncommunicative, a hard worker. After leaving the University of Virginia, he attended George Washington University for a time, and played some football there.

He started his Arlington career as the county engineer, serving in that job for about five years.

He left it in 1929 to form his own contracting firm with his brothers. They did a lot of pipe laying work, gas mains, sewer lines in Arlington, and elsewhere in the Washington area.

### **Entered Housing Field**

By 1938, a \$290,000 contract to add a new span at the Virginia end of Key Bridge was something that now is recalled as an ordinary sized job for the firm. The firm did much of the grading of the Washington National Airport, the same for the sweeping network of roads around

the mammoth Pentagon Building.

The firm entered the housing field with the development of Barcroft, the big apartments on Columbia Pike near Glebe rd.

Thomas retired from his position as president of the contracting firm about three years ago, leaving it in the hands of brothers, John, now president, and Charles, secretary-treasurer. He still visits the office regularly and keeps a hand on policy, but he considers his major interest now to be farming. Fishing comes in, too—he usually spends a part of the winter at Vero Beach, Fla., where he has a cruiser and does a lot of deep-sea fishing.

When he heard talk yesterday, after the sale, of President Monroe having been a plain man, plainest of the plain, Thomas DeLashmull said under his breath, "That's all I am."

Edward Ryan